

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 28, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

May 2

Sheep Heart Dissection

Week of May 5

MAP testing - Reading

May 6-9

Bike Safety Program (3rd grade only)

May 10

District 97 Fun Run

May 8

IAAT (algebra placement test)

THIS IS A CHANGE

Week of May 12

MAP testing - Math

May 14

Robert Crown Field Trip

May 16

Transition Picnic

June 6 (tentative)

Pool Outing

June 9 (This is a CHANGE)

Completion Ceremony

June 10

Last Day of School (Calendar Change) (Olympic Day)

Transition Picnic

Our students will combine with the other 5th graders with whom they will be attending Brooks Middle School. These are students from Hatch, Whittier, and Lincoln. It should be a very fun afternoon. Students will arrive at Taylor Park 11:45. After eating a sack lunch, they will be divided into small groups with their future classmates. With their groups they will transition through stations featuring fun team-building games. We have around 375 fifth graders attending, so we will be needing plenty of help. We would absolutely love it if you were able to help with set-up, running a station, or clean-up. Hopefully you received a Google Form, as well as a paper Volunteer Slip! To sweeten the deal, the Brooks PTO has generously offered a lunch of Potbelly Sandwiches to all volunteers.

Student Council Food Drive

Student Council is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Oak Park Food Pantry. In addition to non-perishable food items, the Food Pantry also accepts monetary donations. For every dollar that is donated, the Oak Park Food Pantry can purchase approximately \$12 worth of food. Please be generous with your donations.

Report Card Envelopes

Please return signed report card envelopes to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. The envelopes will be used for next trimester's report card.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) The results for the Design an Ad contest were published over spring break. There were ten schools in the contest. The paper awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place as well as three honorable mentions. Holmes received three of the six possible awards! Congratulations to Evelyn Hunt (third place), Olivia Cordes and Sophie Bessell (both Honorable Mentions) for designing winning advertisements!

Music - Last week, we focused on learning about chords through playing the ukeleles. These instruments (on loan from Lincoln) will hopefully be used in our completion ceremony. This week we will be continuing our Shakespeare project by recording the melodies of our pieces on our ipads using Garage Band.

Chorus - A few announcements/ dates to keep in mind in the weeks to come

1. Our chorus concert with the gold belt recorder ensemble is on **Thursday May 15th at 6:30 p.m.** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (611 Randolph Street, Oak Park). Chorus members should arrive at 5:30 for a practice. They then will have a short break at 6 while the gold belt recorder ensemble practices. If you want to pack a snack for this break I will see if I can find an area for students to eat it. **Please email me if your child cannot make it to this event.**

2. Our performance with the Chicago Sky is Friday 6/6 in the evening. You should have received a ticket order form which should be dropped off in the PTO mailbox. I did want to specify that students will need to have their own ticket (just like we did for the Wolves last year for those who are returning members). If you cannot accompany your child, please write me. If you are able to provide a carpool for a child, please email me as well. The chorus will perform the first song and then we are

hoping to get a lot of other Holmes groups involved in the last number, so I am hoping we get a huge Holmes crowd to support us! **Again please email me at akaria@op97.org if your child cannot make it to the event.**

3. Announcement for this week!!! We are currently working on the song Ecce Gratum which has lyrics in Latin. I will be seeing this week which students know all the Latin by memory. If they do they get a small prize from my treasure chest in the classroom.

Spanish - All classes have begun working with imovie and/or toontastic on their ipads. They are creating movies in Spanish....some are modified versions of stories we have already learned while others are new and original. They are having a great time inserting special effects and learning new tricks. It will be exciting to see what they create. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - Our research project continues this week. As a reminder, we are using CultureGrams (provided to us by the OPPL) to research a country. The final piece will be a narrative over an imovie, describing a "day in the life" of a child living in that country. There is an example of the movie and the final narrative on the library page; just click the link below! This project will be completed during library time, so if you have any questions, feel free to email me, mmaneck@op97.org . **READING OLYMPIANS:** Congratulations to all the participants of the Extreme Competition. You all did a fantastic job! The winners will be accompanying me this Tuesday, April 29th to the OPPL for a day of literary fun. Give yourselves a pat on the back for a great year of books! For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

We are rapping up our District Dance Unit with Xbox 360 (Just Dance 4). The kids love this activity. Fitness and Conditioning activities will be in full swing starting the month of May as we prepare for our District 97 Fun Run. Looking forward to another grand turn from Holmes.

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

Combining many of the skills we have learned this year, students will be identifying the theme of a story; showing understanding of the point of view from which it is told; comparing and contrasting characters, setting, and events; and making inferences. We will use rap music, poetry, folktales, and many other vehicles to gain a deeper understanding of these important skills.

Next week, students will take the Reading portion of MAP testing.

Writing

In writing students will work on their Imagination vs. Knowledge essay rough drafts. In order to formulate a thesis and arguments, students should use the thoughts they outlined in our compare and contrast lesson.

Math

This week, we will work on finding the volume of composite figures. Students will construct composite figures from rectangular prisms, determine the volume of the individual prisms and add to find the total volume. There will be a quiz on Wednesday covering volume of rectangular prisms and composite figures. The unit test will be next Tuesday, May 6.

Last week we introduced the Million Dollar project. The objective of this project is to spend as close \$1,000,000 without going over that amount. Project guidelines were distributed on Friday and are posted on the math page of the 5th grade wiki. This project is due June 2. Students will have some time to work on the project during class, but they will be required to work on it as homework as well.

Science

This week, we will begin our exploration of the digestive system. The human body unit includes the dissection of sheep hearts and eyeballs. Please let us know if you are interested in assisting with dissection. Heart dissection will be this Friday (May 2) and the eyeball dissection will be next Thursday (May 8).

Social Studies

In Social Studies students will be working on Country Reports. This assignment was crafted by our wonderful librarian, Ms. Maneck. Students first completed research on a specific country. This week, they are writing a narrative from the perspective of a youth in that country. Then, they will make an Imovie comprised of their narrative and pictures that they found.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will have normal spelling words this week!

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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